On my way to the General Assembly in March 1778 at Kent Island I met there with Mr Paca, Mr Wilson, Mr Wright & Mr Thomas - Soon after I seated myself Mr Wilson asked me what I thought of our publick Affairs. I can't recollect what reply I made but it led to conversation upon that Subject from which I discovered Mr Wilson thought them in a bad way - Soon afterwards Mr Wilson was engaged with other Company and the Conversation ended. —

As the Assembly were then called to fill up our Quota of Troops we had repeatedly conversation on that Subject the Gentlemen were for a draft. Mr Wilson was against it and said he thought it would not answer — —

On the subsaquent ~~One~~ morning Mr Wilson Mr Wright and myself happened to be first up and being seated by the fire side the Conversation turned upon the mode of filling up our Quota and I think Mr. Wilſon and myſelf differed about the mode. Mr. Wright and myſelf urged the neceſsity of a draft and Mr. Wilſon ſaid he was of opinion that mode would not be ſubmitted to by the People and ſaid it would be more eligible for the men of Fortune to part freely with their property to raiſe the men than to make the Experiment by draft and ſaid he would most chearfully part with his for that Purpoſe

The Converſation continued ſome time between Mr. Wright and Mr. Wilſon & I heard Mr. Wilſon ſay that he thought we had better make Peace with Britain and obtain the best terms in our Power - ~~The Deponent~~ I think, Mr. Wright asked him if he was for giving up Independence and he replied that he was if thereby we could obtain good terms. This brought Mr. Paca in great haste from his bed which ſtood very near to us in the next room – he cenſured Mr. Wilſon for that expreſsion and ſome heat & warm expreſsions took place between him and Mr. Wilſon but it ſoon ended. ~~ſubſided~~

From the whole of the Converſation that paſsed I never ſuppoſed Mr. Wilſon wanted attachment to the Cauſe or that his conduct and expreſsions proceeded from an Averſion to Independence but did apprehend that he was much alarmed at the ſituation of our Affairs and the Proſpect of a draft being ~~the~~ made – I ~~[illegible]~~ have thought that Mr. Wilſon has not appeared of late ſo zealous in our Cauſe as he did when he firſt came into the Council of Safety

J Nicholson junr

Joseph Nicholson's Esqr
Relation of the
Conversation at Kent
Island March 1778 -

Ch.E.9.28

521

Gentlemen

Having qualified as a Delegate for Queen Annes County and taken my Seat in the House of Delegates I find myself under the necessity of declining a Seat ~~[illegible]~~ with your Body

I am Gentlemen
Your most Ob. Servt.
Wm. Paca.
29. Nov. 1786—

1783
Resignation
Wm Paca
1786

The Honble
The Senate

125

Ms. Ch.E.9.27

Ch.E.9.27